

MISCELLANEOUS.

84. *Homœopathy*.—The following announcement appeared in *l'Examineur Médical* of the 9th January last, and has been copied into other journals.

"By a decree of October 1841, the Emperor of Austria has created a chair of homœopathy in the faculty of Vienna; named MM. Worm and Nerbar professors, and appropriated 100 beds in the St. Elizabeth Hospital for the homœopathic treatment of diseases, under the superintendence of Dr. Levy."

This decree, it seems, has the same foundation as the report so industriously circulated, that M. Breschet had become a convert to the infinitesimal humbug, and is one of the innumerable fictions devised by that industrious and inventive class of practitioners to increase the number of their dupes.

Dr. Sigmund, a very distinguished physician of Vienna, who was recently sent by his government to France to study the organization of the medical profession in that country, on seeing the above statement in *l'Examineur Médical*, addressed to the respectable editors of that journal a letter, the following extract from which they have published in their No. for 10th April.

"In the 2d No. of *l'Examineur* for 1842, I find a statement which is entirely erroneous; it has never been proposed to create a chair of homœopathy in the faculty of Vienna; the government have neither enacted an order or decree to create a clinic of this kind. The hospital mentioned, is one closed to students and strangers; a distinct foundation, served by the sisters of St. Elizabeth, and the physician of which is one of our brethren, Dr. Weninger, who has never practised homœopathy. MM. Worm, Nerbar and Levy are entirely unknown in Vienna."

85. *Destruction of the Medical Library at Hamburg, in the recent conflagration*.—The Medical Union of Hamburg has sustained a most severe loss, in the entire destruction of its large and valuable Library.

We invite the attention of authors of Medical works and editors of Medical Journals to the following circular:

"The frightful conflagration which visited Hamburg in the beginning of last May has not spared the premises of the Medical Union, whose library, the fruit of twenty-six years' assiduous collection, exists no more! Such a loss cannot be repaired by pecuniary contributions. Complete series of a great number of German, French, English, American, and Indian Journals and works, rare editions of the older authors, a multitude of ancient and modern medical and chirurgical encyclopædias and lexicons in various languages, scarce and curious prints, &c., are not only lost, but are no longer procurable by purchase; while many hundred volumes of old dissertations, classified according to subjects, cannot be replaced in any manner. In this strait the Medical Union earnestly requests advice, not only from its foreign members, but from all its medical brethren, where and in what manner it may once more gradually acquire possession of a library at the least possible expenditure of money. Any communication on this subject, in post paid letters or through the medium of the booksellers, addressed to 'The Directors of the Hamburg Medical Union,' or to the undersigned, will be received with the sincerest thanks. The Editors of Medical Journals are requested kindly to give insertion of this notice in their respective publications.

"F. W. OPPENHEIM, M. D."

"Hamburg, May 16, 1842."

86. *Vaudeville enacted in a Lunatic Asylum*.—On the 20th of July, a vaudeville was performed at Bicêtre by the patients, and followed by a musical concert. The actors and musicians were trained by a young *artiste*, M. Florimond Rouger, who has devoted his services for some time past to the establishment. The play went off admirably, and the most perfect harmony reigned throughout the proceedings.—*Lancet*, Aug. 13, 1842.

87. *Revivification of Microscopic Animalculæ*.—M. MILNE EDWARDS read a report on a memoir of M. Doyere on this subject.

It is well known that when a few drops of water are sprinkled on moss which has been kept dry for months or years, certain microscopic animalculæ make their appearance; but it has not been decided whether these little animals are really brought to life again, or whether their ova had not remained concealed in the moss, and were afterwards vivified.

M. Doyere has found that, with the assistance of the microscope, we can discover in the dried sand of rain-spouts a number of small bodies, which closely resemble the remains of these animalculæ, deformed through the effects of desiccation. The author has taken these remains, carefully dried them on glass plates, and found that they were afterwards capable of being restored to life. On pushing his experiments further, the author found that, on applying heat at 145° or 150° Fahrenheit, the animalculæ were destroyed, and it was impossible to bring them to life again. But when they were previously dried, and all the moisture which they naturally contain was gradually expelled, they resisted a very great degree of heat; in some experiments the heat was carried to 120° C., and the animalculæ afterwards restored to life.—*Proc. Med. Journ.*, Aug. 27, 1842.

88. *Health of Paris*.—It appears from an interesting article in the "Gazette Medicale" (August 6th), that there have been more cases of sickness than usual admitted into the Paris hospitals during the present year. In the first five months 33,045 cases (not 38,175 as is assumed by our contemporary in calculating the mortality) were treated, and 3189 persons died; the deaths in the corresponding months of 1841 were 3087. Small-pox has destroyed great numbers; and patients have more than once contracted this disease in the hospitals from small-pox patients in their vicinity. The writer in the "Gazette" asks if no step can be taken to remedy this evil, or to arrest the ravages of small-pox? The epidemic, he remarks, which has prevailed during two years in England, has completely ceased in London, the registrar-general's report not recording more than four or five deaths a week from small-pox.

Typhus has prevailed in Paris for the last six weeks or two months with an intensity equal to, if not surpassing, that of the epidemic of 1831. It is not only very common among the poor who go to hospitals, but in the private houses of the middle classes. Several of the wards of the hospitals are crowded. In the ordinary Paris fever the *taches lenticulaires* are rarely observed; this year they are of frequent occurrence. The inflammatory type, not very well marked, mingled with biliary and adynamic phenomena, predominates. The cases are said not to be so fatal as usual.—*Lancet*, Aug. 20, 1842.

89. *Health of London*.—The deaths recently registered in the metropolis are slightly above the average. In the two weeks ending August 6, the numbers were 882, 890; in the three weeks ending July 23, the numbers were 745, 785, 744. The increase has been considerable in *diarrhoea*, *dysentery*, and *cholera*; from which the numbers registered were in the three weeks ending—

	July 16.	Aug. 6.
Diarrhoea, - - - -	32	76
Dysentery, - - - -	4	19
Cholera, - - - -	4	14
	<hr/> 40	<hr/> 109

Children and aged persons have been the greater sufferers, but persons between the ages of 15 and 60 have not escaped. A similar increase in the mortality took place last year in September. At present we see nothing very alarming. The prevailing diseases may be fairly ascribed to the action of the temperature. Typhus fever is not epidemic: at the same time we do not hesitate to say that a *hundred persons* are now killed weekly by the filth and open

drains in and about London; and unless energetic steps be taken for remedying this state of things, we may anticipate a visitation either of epidemic typhus, influenza, or cholera.—*Ibid.*

90. *London Schools.*—Nearly all the private schools in London have been closed. The only ones remaining are, the Aldersgate Street School, and the school adjoining St. George's Hospital. The once celebrated school of Mr. Granger is defunct.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Aug. 27, 1842.

91. *University of Edinburgh.*—Dr. HOME has resigned the chair of Practice of Medicine, and Dr. ALISON has been appointed his successor.

Dr. HENDERSON has been appointed to the chair of Pathology, vacant by the resignation of Dr. JOHN THOMSON.

Mr. JAMES MILLER has been elected Professor of Surgery in this school, in place of the late Sir Charles Bell.

92. *Medical Faculty of Paris.*—M. A. BERARD has been elected Professor of Clinical Surgery, in the place of the late M. Sanson.

93. *Honours to Medical Men.*—M. CRUVEILHIER, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, and M. BEGIN, principal surgeon of the Val de Grace, have been nominated officers of the Legion of Honour, of France.

94. *Obituary Record.*—We regret to announce the death of the veteran Baron LARREY, the Nestor of French military surgery [at the advanced age of seventy-six years]. He expired on Monday, the 25th ult., at Lyons, in the arms of his son, who had accompanied him on his recent visit to Africa, to inspect the troops there, whence he had just returned. His professional life commenced in 1787, when he embarked for America as surgeon-major in the royal navy. He was afterwards attached to Napoleon's army, where he was highly esteemed. By that great general, whom he followed in all his campaigns, he was spoken of as a "most honest man." The Baron's skill as a practical surgeon is attested by his great work on military surgery, which contains the results of his long experience gained by constant practice in the most sanguinary wars that have ever devastated Europe. It is remarkably free from national prejudice, and abounds with interesting facts and useful observations. It, in addition, recommends itself to the general reader and historian as well as to the medical man, inasmuch as it contains an excellent sketch of his great master's victories and campaigns, graphically and philosophically drawn, and also furnishes information with respect to the internal arrangements of the army, for which the world was not prepared. It will scarcely be believed, that when Napoleon assembled that immense army of 400,000 men, for the subjugation of the Russian empire, little or no preparation was made for the relief of the wounded. Yet such was the fact. Larrey says, when describing the battle of Smolenski, "Here, as at Witepsk, we were in want of all sorts of things necessary for dressing the wounded. For lint we were obliged to substitute paper, and the parchment archives of the city were converted into splints." An excellent occasion certainly to bring forth the talent and ready zeal of the head of the surgical department, but one that will in no way increase the lustre of Napoleon's name. He evidently thought only of victory, and was unprepared for defeat, and even for the inevitable consequences of success.

Larrey was with the troops throughout their advance, and accompanied them also in their disastrous retreat. He attributed his preservation during the return to his habit of marching on foot. He walked almost the whole way, and never approached a fire. Those who did not observe this precaution were so benumbed by the cold, that when the bivouac fires were lighted, they did not feel the heat till the seeds of gangrene were sown. The intense cold was their principal enemy.

At the fatal passage of the Beresina, Larrey nearly lost his life, owing to his anxiety to preserve his surgical instruments, but the attachment of the soldiers saved him, for he was no sooner recognised in the crowd, than he was raised over the heads of the troops, and passed forward from man to man until he reached the bridge, then blocked-up with military materials and the bodies of the dead and dying.

Larrey, on his return, continued employed in a military capacity, and, at the time of his death, he held the rank of Inspecteur du Conseil de Santé des Armées. He has enriched medical science with many valuable observations, drawn from the experience of a long and active life—PEACE BE TO HIS MANES.—*Prov. Med. Journ.*, Aug. 6, 1842.

Died suddenly, June 13th, of pulmonary apoplexy, at the age of 67 years, M. DOUBLE, one of the most useful and respectable members of the French Academy of Sciences.

PELLATIER, the distinguished chemist and professor in the School of Pharmacy, died in Paris, in July last, after a long and painful illness. He rendered great service to science by his researches, in association with M. Caventou, on the vegetable alkalies.

95. *New French Medical Works.*—Our recent Journals announce the publication of the following works:—

De L'Irrigation dans les Maladies Chirurgicales; thèse du concours pour la chaire de pathologie chirurgicale; par M. Malgaigne, in 8vo. Prix 2 fr. 50 c. Histoire de la Chirurgie, par Peyrilhe et Eujardin. 2 vols. in 4to.

Recherches Anatomiques, Pathologiques et Thérapeutiques sur les Maladies des organes urinaires et génetaux, considérées spécialement chez les hommes âgés; ouvrage entièrement fondé sur des Nouvelles Observations; par le Doct. Auguste Mercier. 1 vol. in 8vo. Prix 6 fr.

Essai sur le Traitement Rationnel de la descente de l'utérus et les Affections les plus communes de cet organe, lu le 9 Sept. 1838, à la Soc. de Med. d'Angers, par le Doct. C. Ollivier d'Angers. 1 vol. in 8vo., de 128 pages, Prix. 2 fr.

Quels sont les cas où l'on doit préférer la lithotomie à la lithotritie, thèse présentée au concours pour la chaire de clinique, chirurgicale, vacante à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris; par le Doct. A. Thierry, Prix 2 fr. 50 c.

Des anévrismes de la région sus-claviculaire (thèse de concours); par A. Robert, 8vo. p. 134, pl. 1. Prix 3 fr.

Diagnostic differential des tumeurs du sein (thèse de concours); par A. Berard, 8vo. p. 180. Prix 3 fr. 50 c.

Nouvelle Dermatologie, ou Précis théorique et pratique sur les maladies de la peau fondé sur une nouvelle classification médicale, suivi d'un exposé des principes généraux pouvant servir de guide dans le choix des eaux minérales naturelles applicables dans le traitement de ces maladies, avec un formulaire spécial et planches coloriées; par P. Baumès, chirurgien en chef de l'hospice de l'Antiquaille de Lyon, membre correspondant de l'Académie royale de médecine de Paris, etc., 2 vols. in 8vo. Prix 16 fr.

Muséum d'Anatomie Pathologique de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, ou Musée Dupuytren publié, au nom de la Faculté. 2 vols. in 8vo, un atlas de planches in folio. Prix 14 fr. Paris.